

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together to form fine hollow powder with the powder having an outer diameter of 0.1 to 5000 μm , wherein the titanium oxide shell has a ratio of outer diameter (D) to thickness (T), D/T, of 50 - 5,000, wherein the hollow powder, is provided by spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high temperatures for drying.

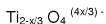
Claim 2. (Original) A fine hollow powder according to claim 1, wherein the titanium oxide shell has an outer diameter (D) of 0.1 - 5,000, μm and a thickness (T) of 1 nm - 100 μm .

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously presented) A process for producing a fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together, which comprises the steps of spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high temperatures for drying.

Claim 5. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol has a viscosity of 5 - 10,000 cP.

Claim 6. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.57 - 1.0.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) An exfoliated titania sol, which comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.57 - 1.0.

Claim 8. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol comprises a dispersion of delaminated particles having a thickness of 0.5 - 1 nm, a width of 0.1 - 30 μm and a length of 0.1 - 30 μm .

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the drying temperature is 100° - 800°C.

Claim 10. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein the exfoliated titania sol

is prepared by a step of producing an alkali metal titanate by mixing an alkali metal oxide or a compound decomposable to an alkali metal oxide by heating with titanium oxide or a compound capable of producing titanium oxide by heating, followed by heating; a step of producing a layered titanate compound by treating the alkali metal titanate with an aqueous acid solution; and a step of producing an exfoliated titania sol by dispersing the layered titanate compound in a liquid medium in the presence of a basic compound.

Claim 11. (Original) A process according to claim 10, wherein the step of producing the alkali metal titanate comprises mixing alkali metal oxides represented by M_2O and M'_2O , where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals, or compounds decomposable to M_2O and M'_2O by heating with titanium dioxide or a compound capable of producing titanium dioxide by heating in a molar ratio of M/M'/Ti of 3/1/5 - 3/1/11, followed by heating at a temperature of 500° - 1,100°C.

Claim 12. (Original) A process according to claim 10, wherein the alkali metal titanate is a mixed alkali metal titanate in a layer structure of orthorhombic crystal, represented by the following composition formula:



, where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals and x is 0.50 - 1.0.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A mixed alkali metal titanate in an orthorhombic layer structure

represented by the following composition formula:



, where M and M' are mutually different kinds of alkali metals and x is 0.50 - 1.0.

Claim 14. (Original) A process according to claim 10, wherein the layered titanic acid compound is a compound in an orthorhombic layer structure represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.50 - 1.0 and n is 0 - 2.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A layered titanic acid compound in an orthorhombic layer structure represented by the following composition formula:



, where x is 0.50 - 1.0 and n is 0 - 2.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A process for producing a flaky titanium oxide powder, which comprises a step of pulverizing fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together wherein the fine hollow

powder has an outer diameter of 0.1 to 5,000 μm and the hollow powder is provided by spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high temperatures for drying.

Claim 19. (Original) A process according to claim 18, which further comprises a step of heat treating at a temperature of 100° - 800 °C before and/or after the step of pulverization.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic which comprises a fine hollow powder of the claim 1.

Claim 21. (Original) A seed particle for flow measurement, which comprises a fine hollow powder of the claim 1.

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell with laminated titanium oxide particles stuck together to form fine hollow powder with the powder having an outer diameter of 0.1 to 5,000 μm and the shape of which is a balloon form, wherein the titanium oxide shell has a ratio of outer diameter (D) to thickness (T), D/T, of 50 - 5,000, wherein the hollow powder, is provided by spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high

temperatures for drying.

Claim 24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A fine hollow powder comprising a titanium oxide shell wherein laminated titanium oxide particles, having a thickness of 0.5-1 nm, a width of 0.1-30 μm and a length of 0.1-30 μm , are stuck together wherein the fine hollow powder has an outer diameter of 0.1 to 5,000 μm and the hollow powder is provided by spraying an exfoliated titania sol and immediately exposing the sprayed exfoliated titania sol to high temperatures for drying.